TORONTO'S DEADLY STREETS

FOUR PEDESTRIANS, CYCLISTS HIT ON ONE DAY — AT LEAST THREE FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIVES

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FEELING LUCKY?

Voting is on to name the city's most beloved brood metroNEWS

Baby capybaras scamper around the High Park Zoo on Wednesday.
EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

Travel restrictions to Toronto Island pushed to July 31

WATER LEVELS

More than 40% of city's favourite summer getaway still flooded

David Hains
Metro | Toronto

The severe restrictions on travel to Toronto Island, normally one of the city's top summertime destinations, have been extended until at least July 31.

The city's decision, announced Wednesday, reflects the fact that more than 40 per cent of the Island remains flooded. More than 300 permits have now been affected, as well as weddings, trips by community groups and 350 summer campers, according to the city.

It's also yet another blow to Island businesses, which rely on a limited summer season and will now likely see little foot traffic on the typically lucrative Canada Day.

But Shawnda Walker, spokeswoman for Centreville Amusement Park, remains optimistic in the face of the unprecedented challenge.

"We would be absolutely shocked if Centreville is still closed at the end of July," she told Metro, explaining that the amusement park's patch of the Island is in better shape than most, but they're going "week-to-week."

News of the Island's continued closure follows a positive report projecting Lake Ontario water levels.

The analysis by the International Lake Ontario–St. Lawrence River Board (ICJ) showed the lake could return to pre-flooding levels by mid-to-late June.

But the optimistic projections are based on median scenarios and historic data. The worst-case scenario — a repeat of the previous record rainfall from 1952 — could mean the lake doesn't return to pre-flooding levels until mid-August.

In addition to the island, all of Toronto's 11 beaches have significant water coverage, according to the city.

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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news

Vicky Mochama Ishmael Daro

Safe Space
New episode June 2 featuring Britney Amofah and Ryan McMahon

International students at Humber College now have an opportunity to learn to swim. CONTRIBUTED

Lifesaving lessons

After an international student at Humber College drowned in a Brampton lake, the college set out to prevent such tragedies in the future. Now it offers classes specifically for students who never learned how to swim in their home countries.

GILBERT NGABO METRO

The news was heartbreaking and its cause was too scary to simply ignore.

When Satvir Singh, a 22-year-old Humber College student from India drowned in a Brampton lake two years ago, one professor realized there could be a bigger problem beyond just the tragic incident.

"I reached out to our international student's office for a needs assessment, and found out the majority of them didn't know how to swim," said Anke Foller-Carroll, who teaches in the tourism and hospitality department at the college.

She decided to do something about it. In collaboration with Ignite, the campus students' association, she started a project to teach swimming lessons to international students. The first cohort of 10 students have just completed a nine-week program, and a new group will start in the fall.

Many of the students who need swimming lessons come from landlocked or developing countries where swimming isn't part of their culture or necessarily an affordable luxury for everyone, Foller-Carroll noted.

> **All of the Canadian experiences happen somewhere on the water.**
> Anke Foller-Carroll

Humber College is home to nearly 4,000 international students, but the swimming skills issue isn't unique to that school. A study from the Canadian Lifesaving Society recently found that new Canadians are four times less likely to know how to swim than those born in Canada.

"All of the Canadian experiences happen somewhere on the water, in the water or beside the water," said Foller-Carroll, citing pool parties, ice fishing, cottage camping or canoeing practices as some of the everyday Canadian culture that involves the water. "We almost take it for granted but it's not available to everyone elsewhere."

She'd like to expand the program to include more students in the future, and would love to see the project incorporated into teaching material.

"I really hope other schools do the same," she said. "Every school has a pool and international students, and if they could start a similar program, that would be the best outcome."

TORONTO'S DEADLY STREETS

Calamity on roads lands 4 in hospital

Four pedestrians and cyclists were injured in crashes across the city on Wednesday, with at least three of those victims fighting for their lives.

One of two vehicles involved in a crash in Scarborough also struck a female pedestrian, leaving her in serious, possibly life-threatening condition.

The two drivers, one of whom is believed to have collided with a hydro box near the intersection of Bellamy Road N. and Ellesmere Road, were taken to hospital with minor injuries.

Just to the east, where Ellesmere intersects with Conlins Road, a cyclist was struck by a vehicle around 3:30 p.m. and also suffered life-threatening injuries.

Earlier in the day, in North York, two teenage pedestrians were hit while crossing from the east to the west side of Bayview Avenue, south of Finch Avenue E.

Paramedics reached the two 18-year-old women around 10 a.m. Both suffered serious head injuries, with one in life-threatening condition.

Thirteen pedestrians and cyclists have died on Toronto's streets so far this year. City hall is also reviewing Toronto's trail network following the death last week of a five-year-old boy riding his bike along Martin Goodman Trail.

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Toronto DIGEST

Appeals court overturns sex assault conviction
A man convicted of sexually assaulting a teenager has been granted a new trial after the Ontario Court of Appeal ruled his trial judge unfairly accused him of crying "crocodile tears." The May decision tosses out three convictions reached April 2, 2014. The case, called R. v P.G., was heard by Justice Stephen D. Brown of the Ontario Court of Justice.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Charges stayed against heroin dealer
A Superior Court judge has stayed charges against a heroin dealer after finding a Peel police officer stole a statue of Scarface character Tony Montana from the man's storage unit and then, along with three other officers, lied about it in court.
Peel police Chief Jennifer Evans ordered an internal investigation after learning about the ruling.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Uber driver charged with sex assault of teen girl
A Toronto man has been charged with sexual assault after a 15-year-old girl said she was attacked by an Uber driver. Police say the girl was allegedly assaulted during a ride on Jan. 25 after she got into a vehicle at the bus terminal at Bay and Edward streets. On May 18, Fahmy Saggaf, 41, was charged with sexual assault and sexual interference.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Manslaughter trial closing arguments delayed
Closing arguments have been postponed in the manslaughter trial of an Ontario nurse who took a patient off life support without a doctor's order.
The trial is expected to resume in a Barrie court Friday.
Joanna Flynn is also charged with criminal negligence causing death in the March 2014 incident.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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METROLINX

Baby capybaras frolic at the High Park Zoo on Wednesday.
EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

Capybabies need names

CAPYBARAS

Zoo releases shortlist for online voting

Genna Buck
Metro | Toronto

Toronto's famous fugitive capybaras, Bonnie and Clyde, welcomed three capybabies back in March. The city's most beloved brood of rodents has been running around nameless ever since.

The High Park Zoo has now released a shortlist — 10 trios of names — on highparkzoo.ca. Online voting is open until June 19.

After careful consideration, Metro is officially endorsing Lucky, Dusty and Ned. Not only do these monikers hold up well individually, they'll be easy for search parties to shout through the streets of Toronto in the event that these three furry water piglets abscond from the zoo in the future, following in the (webbed) footsteps of their parents.

CHOOSE FROM

- Jesse, Billy, Nelly
- Ronnie, Westley, Parker
- Lucky, Dusty, Ned
- Pichu, Nacho, Rio
- Howie, Colby, Grenny
- Mocha, Chino, Latte
- Alex, Geddy, Neil
- Babyface, Floyd, Dillinger
- Peanut, Butter, Jam
- Snap, Crackle, Pop

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TCH memo warns against overhaul

HOUSING

Restructuring would cost millions, says former CEO

An internal memo from the ousted Toronto Community Housing boss to city staff warns of the risk of hundreds of millions of dollars in costs, financial losses and a lack of information with the developing plans to remake the corporation.

The memo, obtained by Torstar News Service through a freedom of information request, reveals the direction city staff planned to take implementing one of Mayor John Tory's signature plans ahead of a report expected later in June.

The memo, written by now former CEO Greg Spearn, contained several significant concerns, including financial implications of breaking up the company totalling more than $700 million in legal fees and loan default alone.

Greg Spearn
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

More than 20 pages of the memo forwarded to the city were censored by Toronto Community Housing, an agency of the city, before being released.

Separately, Torstar News Service obtained an uncensored version of the memo, which shows that some of the more troubling passages of the memo were blacked out for public view.

Torstar is publishing the uncensored, 35-page version online.

"Moving ahead at this time without a more detailed analysis of the financial, operational and tenant impacts could pose significant risks for both the city, and TCHC, — and especially for tenants," Spearn wrote to deputy city manager Giuliana Carbone and copied to city manager Peter Wallace and other senior staff March 17. Spearn recommended the process be slowed to allow for "informed and meaningful dialogue."

Spearn's memo outlines that city staff are considering carving out a third of the corporation's units by transferring the entire seniors' portfolio — some 14,000 units and 67 buildings — to "a new entity with linkages to the city's long-term care division" and also transferring 5,000 additional units to existing social housing providers.

Spearn also explained that whatever is left of the corporation may experience difficulty repaying debt after assets are transferred. Much of TCH's debt is not tied to a specific building, the way a mortgage is.

"Removal of these assets without substantive improvements to the current funding model will have significant negative consequences for the remaining portfolio that is already strained," Spearn wrote.

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TURNING A PAGE

There are few things that bookish Torontonians like more than a new public library. Albion branch by Kipling and Finch will re-open to the public Monday. We spoke to the Toronto Public Library about new features you can expect from the $15-million, 25,000-square-foot space.

DAVID HAINS METRO

1 Plentiful programming

Albion is a district library, which means it features programming for a variety of ages and groups. That includes a KidsStop early literacy centre, a Discovery Zone for kids six to 12, and a youth hub with homework help and even DJ equipment.

2 Eye candy

The mural in the lobby, called The Long Passage Towards Night, features 64 photographs.

"It's very light and ethereal and airy," said Susan Martin, a divisional support manager at the Toronto Public Library.

3 Green space

There will be three indoor reading garden spaces with different themes. There will be a Digital Innovation Hub, the fifth in the library system. Want to use 3D printers, virtual reality sets, or learn about coding with Raspberry Pi and Arduino sets? It's all there.

4 Inclusivity

It'll also be the first time the Toronto Public Library will have trans-inclusive washroom signs.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY TPL

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Reno just the start of the nightmare

BACKLASH

Toronto Life article met with derision

David Hains
Metro | Toronto

A feature Toronto Life article about the "nightmare reno" of a Parkdale "crackhouse" has inspired a big backlash on social media.

Critics say the first-person story of a family buying a three-storey corner lot is clueless and classist. Metro reached out to the writer, Catherine Jheon.

In an email, she wrote:

"My article was meant to be about a renovation and our fairly dramatic mistakes along the way. I have listened to the feedback. I understand why the story and my insensitive descriptions triggered anger around real issues of affordable housing, homelessness and more. I'm going to take some time to reflect on everything that has happened."

It's also spurred local man Todd Ferguson to start a tongue-in-cheek GoFundMe campaign to support Parkdale's "brave gentrifier family" through their real estate turmoil.

Screen grab of Todd Ferguson's tongue-in-cheek crowdfunding campaign.

He says if the crowdfunder doesn't reach its $730,000 goal, the money will be distributed evenly between Parkdale Community Legal Services, the Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario, the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations and ACORN Canada.

Metro had an interesting conversation with Ferguson.

Metro: Why did you want to create this GoFundMe campaign?

Ferguson: Sir, I am but a humble member of the Toronto elite — the better class of this fine city. And I felt compelled to support this young struggling family in their efforts to establish a pioneering civilizing front in the wilds of Parkdale.

I don't know if you're aware of this, sir, but even as we speak there are lawless savages in Parkdale refusing to pay rent to a corporate landlord.

Don't they have a right to a roof over their head too?

I'd encourage these people to take the example of the Humphreys-Jheon family and pull themselves up by the bootstraps, possibly with the help of a wealthy uncle that's willing to loan them a six-figure amount.

So your solution is that the squatters who formerly resided in this Parkdale house should find a wealthy uncle, too.

They could do that, or perhaps they could save money for a place to call their own if they stopped spending on avocado toast.

This interview has been condensed and edited.

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Have your say on the future of the rail corridor

Community Consultation

The City is initiating an Official Plan Amendment process for the Rail Corridor and is holding a community consultation meeting where you can learn more about the project, ask questions, and share your thoughts.

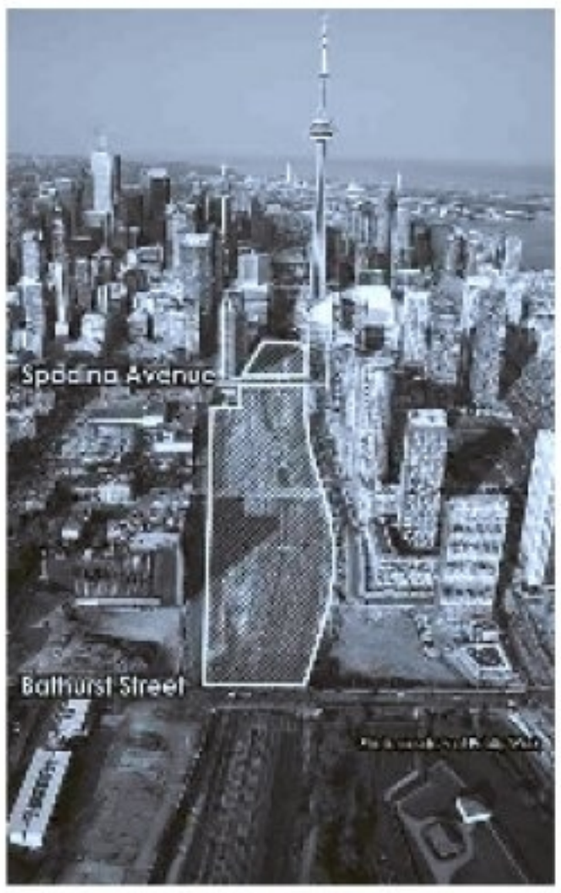
Date: June 13, 2017
Time: Open House at 6 p.m. and Presentation at 6:30 p.m.
Place: Metro Hall, Rotunda, Main Floor, 55 John Street

This consultation is the first in a series of meetings about the Official Plan Amendment. The meeting will begin in an open house format for you to learn more about the project with a brief presentation about the existing policy context and history, followed by a group discussion.

Facebook RSVP: https://goo.gl/lY3eYu

Proposal

Downtown Toronto has experienced unprecedented growth, doubling in population over the past 25 years and continuing to intensify. In the heart of our growing downtown is the Rail Corridor, which provides a unique opportunity to enhance city building.



City Council has requested staff look at re-designating the lands over the rail corridor, between Blue Jays Way and Bathurst Street, to park space. Staff have started that work and are looking comprehensively at how decking over the corridor can contribute to a prosperous, livable and accessible community. The City-initiated Official Plan Amendment is proposing to establish updates to the Railway Lands West and Central Secondary Plans. The amendments will provide an updated planning framework for this part of the rail corridor.

City Planner Contact
Paul Mulé
416-392-1306
Paul.Mule@toronto.ca

Ward Councillor Contact
Joe Cressy
Ward 20, Trinity-Spadina
416-392-4044
councillor_cressy@toronto.ca

Information will be collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

Our public meeting locations are wheelchair/mobility device accessible. Other reasonable accommodation or assistive services for persons with disabilities may be provided with adequate notice. Please contact Paul Mulé (above) with your request. The City of Toronto is committed to taking the necessary steps to insure compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005.

Son of murdered woman speaks up

The distraught son of Wendy Carlick, an advocate for missing and murdered Indigenous women who was found dead weeks ago, interrupted the national inquiry on Wednesday to share his grief.

Alex Carlick walked into the tent in Whitehorse where another family was testifying and began to speak into a microphone. Wearing dark sunglasses, he said he was crying because both his mom and sister were taken from him.

"I feel everybody's pain around here. It's pretty hard that you have to go through these situations," he added. Carlick left the tent in tears.

All are welcome at the community hearings, said Bernee Bolton, the inquiry's spokeswoman.

These occurrences are to be expected, which is why health supports are in place, she added.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CANADA 150 STAMPED IN OUR HISTORY The most famous goal scored in Canadian hockey history is now featured on a stamp. Canada Post unveiled a stamp Wednesday showing Paul Henderson immediately after scoring the goal that gave Canada a victory over the Soviet Union in the 1972 Summit Series. It is one of 10 maple-leaf-shaped stamps that mark significant moments in the last 50 years being released for the country's 150th anniversary. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ADVANCING GENERICS

Asylum seeker found dead near border

MANITOBA

A woman from Ghana died from apparent hypothermia

Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister says the federal government has failed to reduce the risk in illicit border crossings because it has not tried to persuade the U.S. president to soften his immigration and deportation policies.

A woman who authorities believe was originally from Ghana was found dead from apparent hypothermia near the U.S.-Manitoba border on Friday. Mavis Otuteye, 57, was found roughly one kilometre south of the border near Noyes in a remote part of northwestern Minnesota.

Pallister said the President Donald Trump's crackdown is driving people to sneak across the border and risk their lives.

"We need to address the root cause of this … the desperation people clearly are feeling — combined with the hope they feel — as they pursue a better life and come from the United States to Canada and to Manitoba," Pallister said Wednesday.

A spokesman for Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale said Goodale was not able to respond directly to Pallister's comments, but added that the government has been clear in its messaging.

"Irregularly crossing the border is not a free ticket to Canada. Anyone who is found to not be a genuine refugee will be removed," press secretary Scott Bardsley said.

Refugee advocates and immigration lawyers say many refugee claimants have no choice but to cross through fields and ditches because, under the Canada-U.S. Safe Third Country Agreement, they are automatically turned back at official border crossings if they have already made a claim in the U.S.

People who make it onto Canadian soil before being caught are entitled to Canada's normal refugee process.

"I have always said that the Canada-U.S. Safe Third Country Agreement puts people's lives in danger and that's exactly what's happened right here," Winnipeg immigration lawyer Bashir Khan said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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U.S. may abandon Paris pact

POLITICS

Leaving deal would fulfil a key campaign promise

U.S. President Donald Trump is expected to withdraw the United States from the landmark Paris climate-change accord, a White House official said Wednesday, though Trump and aides were looking for "caveats in the language" related to the exit and had not made a final decision.

"I'm hearing from a lot of people both ways," Trump told reporters as he welcomed Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc to the White House. Later in the day he tweeted that he would make his announcement on Thursday afternoon.

Leaving the deal would fulfil a central campaign pledge, but would anger international allies who spent years in difficult negotiations that produced an accord to reduce carbon emissions.

Trump faced considerable pressure to hold to the deal during visits with European leaders and Pope Francis on his recent trip abroad. The president and his aides were finalizing the details of a pullout, an official said, insisting on anonymity to discuss the decision before an official announcement.

While Trump currently favours an exit, he has been known to change his thinking on major decisions and tends to seek counsel from a range of inside and outside advisers until the last minute. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Donald Trump is expected to announce Thursday that the U.S. will withdraw from the Paris climate-change accord. AP

Canada still committed to Paris Accord

Canada is aligning itself with the world's other two largest economies to take a global leadership role in the effort to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

Environment Minister Catherine McKenna said that Canada remains committed to the Paris Accord.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pollution costs Canadian economy 'billions': Report

Pollution costs Canadians tens of billions of dollars every year, according to a new report.

Published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), the report says that poor air quality alone cost the economy $36 billion in 2015.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TWITTER

The mystery of covfefe

It appeared at 12:06 a.m., without warning, like a shooting star through the dark night.

Covfefe. Noun. (Was it a noun? It seems like it was trying to be a noun.) A word used, Wednesday, by the president of the United States.

It has come to this. To the confusion, delight and genuine alarm of the night owls of the world's most powerful country, Donald Trump wrote the following six words to his 31 million Twitter followers early on Wednesday: "Despite the constant negative press covfefe"

That was it. Covfefe.

Until the tweet was deleted six hours later, people on the Internet made tens of thousands of jokes.

They offered mocking definitions. ("When you want to say 'coverage' but your hands are too small to hit all the letters on your keyboard," read one entry on Urban Dictionary.) They made comedic purchases. ("My dad just bought the CA license plate 'COVFEFE.'")

Covfefe remained Twitter's top trending topic until it was deleted. The president's tweet had more than 100,000 retweets. For a few brief hours, Donald Trump brought the world together.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tragedy in Kabul

A suicide attacker struck the fortified heart of the Afghan capital with a massive truck bomb Wednesday, killing 90 people, wounding 400 and raising new fears about the government's ability to protect its citizens nearly 16 years into a war with insurgents.

The bomber drove into Kabul's heavily guarded diplomatic quarter. Most of the casualties were civilians, including women and children, said a spokesperson of the public health ministry. There was no claim of responsibility for the attack. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PHILOSOPHER CAT by Jason Logan

VICKY MOCHAMA ON RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

A more humane system treats prisoners with compassion; it grants them a humanity that their lives might not have allowed for.

In prisons, we are facing a mental health problem and a growing population of women and girls.

To combat this troubling trend, we need to shift our thinking across the entire criminal system.

The fastest growing population in prisons worldwide is of women and girls. Sadly, this is also true in Canada. Overwhelmingly, female prisoners are some of society's most vulnerable.

Per the Elizabeth Fry Society, "They are primarily poor or homeless, undereducated and have addictions or mental-health problems such as schizophrenia, depression and anxiety disorders."

Since 2001, there has been a 100 per cent rise in Indigenous women in prisons. And according to Correction Services Canada (CSC), the number of people entering prisons with a mental illness doubled between 1997 and 2010.

Increasingly, the justice system is criminalizing those that society has failed to protect. We are punishing individuals for our society's failures.

By making changes that are less punitive and more humane — for example, counselling and drug therapies rather than solitary confinement and prolonged sentences — the justice system can help prisoners escape the cycle of poverty and criminality.

Disrupting the prison pipeline is not solely a concern of the federal government. The federal prison agency houses 40 per cent of the 40,000 incarcerated people in this country. The rest are in provincial and territorial jails, including people awaiting trial or serving community sentences.

A more humane prison system treats prisoners with compassion; it grants them a humanity that their lives might not have allowed for.

This inability to deal with pressing issues on mental health and vulnerability is increasingly evident. In the last decade, the number of prisoners who self-harm has tripled, according to data from CSC reported in the Globe and Mail. Self-injury is a marker of mental distress.

More strikingly, deaths in prison tell of the failure to deal with problems that are becoming more urgent. For prisoners like Cleve Geddes, Moses Amik Beaver and Soleiman Faqiri, to name a few who died in custody, mental health was a factor.

That many decades of punitive prison conditions have not worked is becoming evident to the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights, too.

The committee is undertaking a national fact-finding mission to understand the experiences federal inmates.

Since February the committee has heard from 41 witnesses, including lawyers, advocates and individuals.

One senator, Senator Kim Pate, has been vocal in her criticism.

Speaking to the Montreal Gazette, she said, "We know that the people who end up in prison aren't from another planet, they're from our communities by and large. And unless they die in prison, they'll be coming back to our communities … If the goal is truly to rehabilitate these people, we're failing them."

Our criminal justice system must focus on providing justice, not on making more criminals.

Vicky Mochama is Metro's national columnist. She appears every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

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No 'us' and 'them' in the war on terror

Azeezah Kanji
Metro Views

The images of the aftermath of the Manchester attack are devastating: families stricken with grief, a country's sense of safety and security shattered.

We can mourn the lives lost in Manchester last week because our media shows us their faces and tells us their stories — an attention hardly ever accorded to those living under the daily barrage of the U.S.-led war on terror.

We see the girls killed at a concert, but not the wedding parties pulverized by missiles in Yemen. Our hearts break for the families bereaved in terror attacks in Western countries, but generally don't register the pain of Iraqi mothers whose babies have life-threatening birth defects caused by toxic American weaponry.

The same week as the atrocity in Manchester, airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition killed more than 100 civilians, including 42 children, in Syria, according to London-based human rights organization Reprieve. How many in Canada were even aware of these other atrocities, let alone familiar with the names and faces and stories of the victims?

We profile the casualties of Muslim terror in Europe and North America in heart-rending detail but don't bother to keep track of the number of civilians dead in the name of fighting terror. The best estimate, from Physicians for Social Responsibility, puts the death toll in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan at 1.3 to 2 million in the first 10 years of the assault. (This excludes Yemen, Somalia, Libya and Syria).

We are left always asking why "they" hate us — is it because of our freedom? Our pop music? — while being ignorant about the grievances produced by our governments.

Mainstream Canadian media coverage and commentaries artificially disconnect acts of non-state terrorism from this broader context of the brutalities of state counterterrorism.

This sustains the myth that "their" violence is exceptionally aggressive, senseless, fanatic, and indiscriminate, while "ours" is all defensive, rational, liberatory, and precise.

But on both sides of the pretend line between "they" who are barbaric and "we" who are civilized, it is innocents who bear the heaviest burden.

Azeezah Kanji is a legal analyst based in Toronto.

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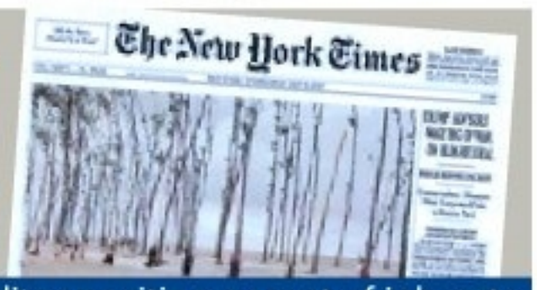


The New York Times ditches public editor position as part of job cuts

Why his ex was off limits

David Sedaris has not shied away from chronicling his life, but the beloved memoirist cringed when he re-read entries about his first breakup

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

When a young David Sedaris first began writing his diaries back in the late 1970s, he would head to the International House of Pancakes (IHOP) in his hometown of Raleigh, N.C.

It didn't matter that the coffee was disgusting, or gave off a burning odour that "you could smell from the parking lot," he says, or that even when you poured plenty of cream in, the liquid never changed colour, because the staff would let him sit and write and read for as long as he wanted. On some days it was just Sedaris, wearing a beret — "a beret!" he emphasizes — occupying a booth while documenting his life on the back of paper placemats.

Although Sedaris is now a cultishly beloved memoirist well known for his live performances and diary readings, this is the first time he is sharing his early IHOP journalling in print. Theft By Finding: Diaries 1977–2002 is the first of two volumes of selected entries from his 153 personal notebooks. Lightly edited for clarity, the writing showcases not only the emerging sly, self-effacing wit and observational skills now well known to fans of his books like Naked and Me Talk Pretty One Day, but it also documents the life of a struggling artist, and the harsh day-to-day realities of being depressed, hungry and broke.

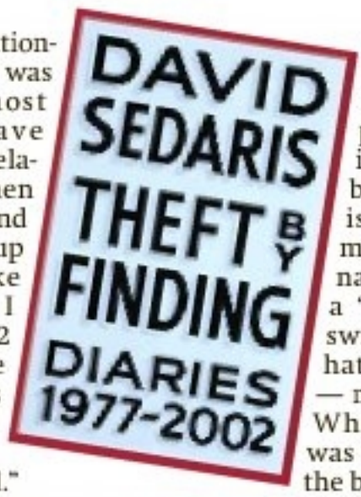
After Sedaris left Raleigh in 1984 for the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, he immediately found another IHOP from which to hold court. Chicago was also where he discovered the first live audiences for his diaries.

Sedaris was asked to take part in a variety show with a strict seven-minute performance limit, and not having anything appropriate timewise, decided to read funny passages from his personal notes.

"That changed the writing in my diary because when something happened, or I would see something that was funny, I would take extra care with it because I'd think this might work on stage," he says.

Sedaris has never kept diaries to chronicle his own emotions, and he rarely delves into his feelings, except for a short period of time in his early 30s following a breakup. He decided not to include those entries in Theft By Finding — his ex didn't want to be written about, and Sedaris also cringed re-reading his own words.

"Oh my god, the whining, and the talking about my feelings," he says. "I didn't have my first relationship until I was 27, and most people have their first relationship when they're 14, and they break up and act like they're 14. I was 30, 32 when I broke up with this person, and I acted like a 14-year-old."



> **I didn't have my first relationship until I was 27 ... I was 30, 32 when I broke up with this person, and I acted like a 14-year-old.**
> David Sedaris

The most challenging part of going through the notebooks, he says, was transcribing his own writing. What did that sentence say? "Cl... chu... Oh, it looked like he was wearing a clown nose," he says, laughing after stuttering several times for comic effect over the word "clown."

It's been about 25 years since Sedaris has written anything at an IHOP, though he's still a diligent diarist. He has no interest in Starbucks laptop culture, and only seeks out a local coffee shop while on tour if his hotel room is too depressing to work in. His spiral notebook of choice is the Japanese-made, German-named Rollbahn, a "traumatizing" switch — Sedaris hates any change — made a year ago. When his laptop was stolen in 2011, the biggest panic was over the loss of his tour diaries. Sedaris's boyfriend Hugh tried to reassure him that he still lived all those months, regardless of whether they were written down, but six years later Sedaris still sounds worried.

"But how do I know? I don't have any record of it. How can I be sure I lived if all the details aren't documented?"

David Sedaris will be in Toronto on Friday, June 2 at 7 p.m. for a talk and book signing at the Indigo Books, 55 Bloor Street W.

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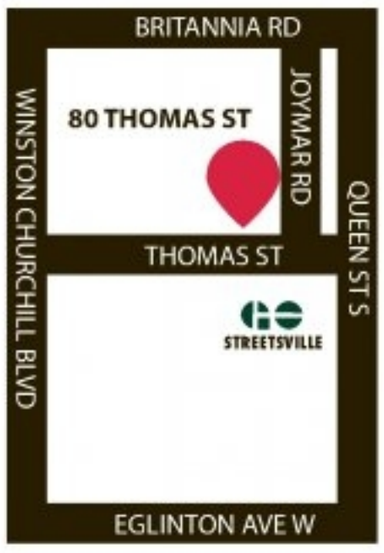

HOME

Your essential daily news

MEET THE CONDO

Lakefront living

Project overview

Nautique has just released a new collection of water view suites. The building will feature a five-storey podium, which includes ground-floor retail space. Most suites feature a balcony or terrace.

Housing amenities

Amenities include a 24-hour concierge, outdoor dining, a swimming pool and a fireplace lounge. There's also an indoor-outdoor bar and fitness centre. The 20th floor has a dining room with show kitchen and an outdoor terrace.

Location and transit

Nautique is in the heart of downtown Burlington, close to the Burlington GO rail station and Lakeshore bus routes. It's a quick drive to the Lake Shore Road and the QEW.

In the neighbourhood

The building overlooks the vibrant waterfront close to the Brant Street pier. With a walk score of 85, shopping and myriad cultural events are nearby, as well as Central Park and Maple Park. DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO

CONTRIBUTED

DETAILS

What: Nautique Lakefront Residences
Builder: Adi Development Group
Architect: ICON Architects
Interior: Cecconi Simone
Location: 374 and 380 Martha St., Burlington
Building: A 26-storey condo with ground floor retail
Models: One bedroom, one bedroom plus media, one bedroom plus den, two bedroom
Sizes: From 547 to 1,074 square feet
Pricing: From the $400,000's
Status: Now selling
Occupancy: February 2021
Sales centre: 375 Brant St.
Phone: (416) 869-9268
Website: adidevelopments.com

LEGAL MATTERS

Insisting on a vacant possession

Jeffrey Cowan
For Metro Canada

Q: We have purchased a small condo unit in a university town for our daughter to live in while she goes to school starting in the fall. We are scheduled to close in the next couple of weeks but we know that there is presently a student living in the property until the end of August.

We were promised vacant possession by the agent but by chance, we reached out to the company that manages the building which is rented mostly to students. They indicated that they had been given a mandate by the present owners and had in fact rented the unit starting September 2017 to a new student. The sellers now want to back out of the deal and we are at a loss because it is too late to get our daughter into residence and the housing market is very tight in the town. What should we do?

A: Although you are not obtaining instant vacant possession to the property (which is generally a hallmark of real estate transactions), they had promised this to you when the fall arrived and you can rely on this.

Make sure your lawyer takes an aggressive stance with the solicitor for the sellers and insist that the lease with the new tenant be cancelled and that they have written confirmation that you will have an empty unit for your daughter to move into on September 1st.

metro SPORTS
Your essential daily news

IN BRIEF

TFC moves on to Canadian championship final

Tsubasa Endoh scored a goal and helped create another in a two-minute spurt late in the first half and Toronto FC went on to defeat the Ottawa Fury 4-0 Wednesday, advancing 5-2 on aggregate to the Canadian championship final.

Substitutes Marky Delgado and Sebastian Giovinco added insurance goals in the 80th and 85th minutes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Racial slurs spray painted on LeBron's L.A. home

Police are investigating after someone spray painted a racial slur on the front gate of LeBron James' home in Los Angeles on the eve of the NBA Finals.

An unidentified person spray painted the N-word on the front gate of James' home in the Brentwood neighbourhood Wednesday morning a spokeswoman said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Milos moves on in Paris

Canada's Milos Raonic is through to the third round of the French Open after a 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 win over Brazil's Rogerio Dutra Silva on Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Springing to life in May

MLB

2B Travis's uptick at dish coincides with turnaround

WEDNESDAY In T.O.

5	4
BLUE JAYS	REDS

Toronto's Devon Travis was determined to control the pace of his at-bat in a seventh-inning showdown with Wandy Peralta on Wednesday afternoon.

The Cincinnati reliever kept throwing to first base and Travis called timeout a few times to keep his timing intact while eventually working a full count. After a few foul balls, Travis drilled a tiebreaking two-run homer that helped Toronto to a 5-4 victory.

"It's something I've learned from watching a lot of these guys hit," Travis said. "Honestly I think that might have been my first time really ever taking to that. So that was pretty good."

Devon Travis THE CANADIAN PRESS

It's all part of the maturation process for the second baseman.

Travis has enjoyed a scorching May after a sluggish April and his play is a big reason the Jays (26-27) have won eight of their last nine games.

"He's driving the baseball," said Toronto manager John Gibbons. "He's hitting a lot of doubles and he's hit a handful of home runs. He's a good hitter, (that's) the bottom line. "He's going to be a good hitter his whole career. (April) was just one of those tough months, but that's all forgotten now."

Travis's fifth homer of the season gave him 20 extra-base hits in May. Catcher Luke Maile also hit a two-run shot for the Jays, who swept the three-game set to improve to 5-1 on their 10-game homestand.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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As a part of our research, we will obtain a randomized MRI or PSA blood test to evaluate your risk of having prostate cancer. This will take place at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre at a scheduled visit. You will be asked to undergo an onsite evaluation. Participants will be followed for a period of 3 years: up to 4 visits in the first year and follow-up each additional year. Participants will receive parking passes for their visits.

If you are interested, please contact us for further details.

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patrick.macinnis@sunnybrook.ca | 416.480.6100 ext.7504
Principal Investigator: Dr. Robert Nam

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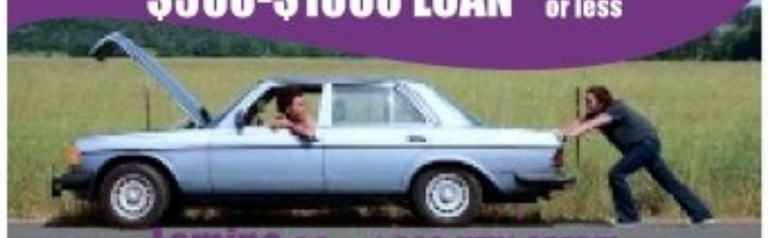

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Luscious Fruit Salad with Cardamom Cider Dressing

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Who said salad had to be greens only? Why not serve a bowl of this luscious, summery goodness beside your next grilled dinner?

Ready in 20 minutes
Prep time: 20 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients

- 1 gala apple, sliced into cubes
- 2 cups sliced strawberries
- 1 cup blueberries
- 1 cup diced pineapple
- 1 cup raspberries

Dressing

- 1 Tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 1/4 cup apple cider
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 tsp lemon juice
- 1 Tbsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp ground cardamom

Directions

1. Toss all your fruits in a large bowl.

2. Meanwhile, whisk the cider vinegar, cider, oil, honey and lemon juice. Add the vanilla and cardamom. Dress the salad with desired amount of dressing.

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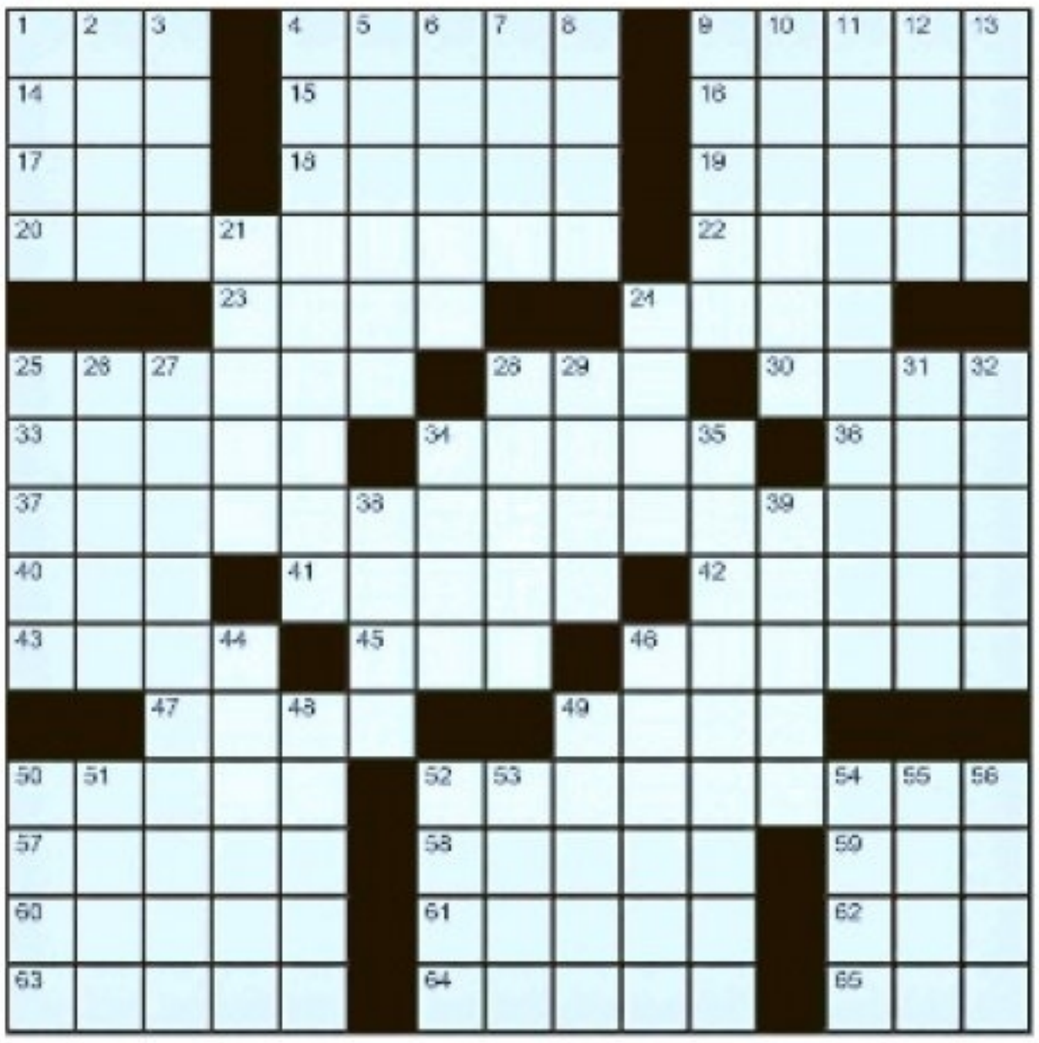
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS

1. "The Ring __" (2005)
4. Apples sorts
9. Farm milk dispenser
14. Electrical resistance unit
15. Sheep-like
16. "You rang?" character on "The Addams Family"
17. You, to Yves
18. Japanese poem of five lines/thirty-one syllables
19. Victoria Park is located in the 'hub' of what Nova Scotia town?
20. Maintains a balanced diet: 2 wds.
22. Romulus' twin brother in Roman myth
23. Toroidal topper
24. Clean
25. Amounts in egg cartons
28. Camel hair cloth
30. Mail
33. Prescription warning, '__ Directed'
34. __ Bay, British Columbia
36. Mr. Ferrigno
37. Lacey Burrows' portrayer on "Corner Gas": 2 wds.
40. Kiev's li'l land
41. De-wilds
42. Highlanders
43. Johnny Carson's predecessor Jack
45. Jamie Foxx title role
46. "I need water!" reason
47. Hock
49. Golf tap
50. Caterpillar, for example
52. Moving along quickly
57. Homer's epic masterpiece
58. Supercharger
59. At present
60. Canadian Rockies, for example
61. Low ship deck
62. "__ Freedom" (1987)
63. Staked, in poker
64. Plague, in Paris
65. Harrison Ford role, with Solo

DOWN

1. Bag style
2. '__, Nelly!': Ms. Furtado's debut album
3. Bypass
4. Ontario: 2017 marks this Greater Golden Horseshoe commuter service's 50th anniversary: 2 wds.
5. Helps
6. Jargon
7. Sacred looped cross
8. Show to one's table
9. Ne plus __ (Perfection)
10. Coerced confession cause
11. Midland Provincial Park's location in the badlands of Alberta
12. Hosiery hue
13. 17th Greek letters
21. Shave the sheep
24. Hot
25. Excavated: 2 wds.
26. Port city of Japan
27. Sort of wildlife pattern: 2 wds.
28. Rat's urban passageway
29. Striped insects
31. Rocker Mr. Gallagher's
32. Fred of Limp Bizkit
34. __ mater
35. Nik Wallenda walks this line
38. Pull in $$$
39. Church members
44. Lay waste
46. Variety of flatfish
48. Moved around the shallow water
49. Knitting stitches
50. Italy's former currency
51. Glass Tiger singer Mr. Frew
52. Cease
53. Remedy
54. Length unit
55. Filmmaker Ms. Ephron
56. Nell __ (17th-century English actress who was King Charles II's mistress)

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
During all your conversations with others today, you will be calm and realistic. You see the limitations that others have, and you're willing to accept them with grace.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Solitude in beautiful surroundings will please you today, because you want to become more disciplined in an inner way.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Someone older or more experienced might have advice for you today, or they might assist you in some way. It's possible that you will strike up a new friendship, even a romance, with someone of an age difference.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Relationships with bosses and authority figures are excellent today. If others ask for your advice about how to make something look better, you can help them.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
This is a good day to make serious plans about future travel. Likewise, you can make future plans about further education, publishing, the media, medicine and the law.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Some kind of legal ruling might profit you today, because you will benefit from the wealth and resources of others. If something comes your way, just say, "Thank you!"

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
A discussion with a partner or close friend will be productive and realisti today. This is because you do not have pie-in-the-sky expectations.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You will accomplish a lot at work today because others will help and support you. You find it easy to be polite and reasonable, which is why your relationships will be so positive.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Romance with someone older might take place today. This is a good day to make plans for a vacation, because you won't overlook details.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
A discussion with an older family member could be significant today. You also will enjoy budgeting for home redecorating projects.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You are calm and realistic today, which is why you get along with others so well. You can even act as a mediator if others disagree.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Your approach to anything financial will be conservative, solid and realistic today. This is a good day to think about a budget. It's also a good day to buy something useful and long-lasting.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	5		4		3			7
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		2				8		
9				3			8	
3		4				6		2
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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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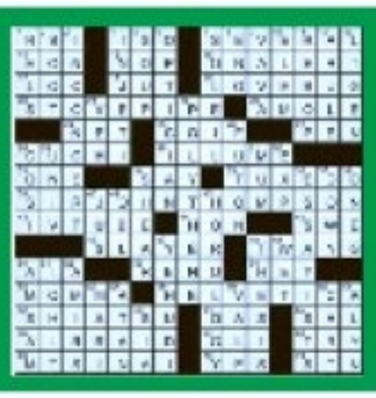

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2	1	3	7	6	4	5	8	9
3	2	5	4	7	9	6	1	8
9	4	1	8	5	6	7	3	2
7	6	8	3	1	2	9	4	5

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HUDSON'S BAY
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